

Harvoni Is Safe and Effective for Those With Advanced Liver Disease

Curing the virus was associated with a lower risk of liver cancer recurrence.

April 23, 2019 By [Benjamin Ryan](#)

Gilead Sciences' Harvoni (ledipasvir/sofosbuvir) is safe and effective for those with hepatitis C virus (HCV) and advanced liver disease, Infectious Disease Advisor reports.

Publishing their findings in the *Journal of Viral Hepatitis*, researchers conducted a study of Harvoni with or without ribavirin among 200 people with HCV and advanced liver disease who participated in the Turkish Early Access Program.

Twenty-four weeks of treatment with Harvoni was recommended. The participants were followed for a median of 22 months.

Eighty-four percent of the participants had genotype 1b of HCV. Twenty-four percent had received a liver transplant prior to starting Harvoni.

Eighty-six percent of the study cohort achieved a sustained virologic response 12 weeks after completing therapy (SVR12, considered a cure). The cure rate did not differ significantly based on the severity of liver disease according to the Child-Pugh scoring system.

Treatment was generally well tolerated.

One participant was newly diagnosed with hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC, the most common form of liver cancer) during follow-up. Of the 35 people who had a history of liver cancer, 17 developed a recurrence during follow-up. Curing HCV was associated with a lower likelihood of liver cancer recurrence.

Between the start of treatment and the 12-week posttreatment mark, ALT enzymes typically declined and liver disease severity according to the MELD scoring system typically improved among participants.

To read the Infectious Disease Advisor article, [click here](#).

To read the study abstract, [click here](#).

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